Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today issued the following statement after President Obama offered an "accommodation" to his Administration's <u>recent decision to force</u> <u>religious institutions</u>

like Catholic schools, hospitals, and charities – to provide free coverage of contraceptive, sterilization and morning-after pill services, even if those services violate the teachings of an institution.

"The President is not a king. Religious institutions and American families should not have to rely on the good graces of a President worried about his reelection prospects to ensure that their right to free exercise of religion is protected – that's why we have the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

"The President has asserted that he has the power to dictate to American individuals, churches, charities, religious schools, and religious hospitals exactly what kind of health insurance they must have for themselves or provide for others, regardless of whether it conflicts with their religious beliefs, and that only he has the power to grant exceptions to those rulings. This attempt by President Obama to put his big government mandates above the Constitution is further evidence that his health care law must be repealed."

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